

Fred F. Steen III
Town of Landis, NC
December 18, 2001

Fax Cover Sheet

To: Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Department of Justice

From: Fred Steen
Mayor of Landis, NC

Microsoft case comments for Federal Register

Fred F. Steen, II, Mayor
Town of Landis, NC

Rennet Heas
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Heas,


I would like to urge that Judge Kollar-Kotelly approve the settlement that the U.S. Department of Justice has worked out with Microsoft as well as nine other attorneys general including our attorney general in North Carolina.

As an elected official, I have always been wary of government lawsuits against private business and I was an opponent of this particular lawsuit from the start. But now that the parties have come to an agreement, I think it is important for everyone to move on, particularly considering the state of our economy.

There can be nothing gained by continuing on with a trial against one of the finest companies in America, which makes the products that, just about every computer user in the country benefits from. I cannot see where there has ever been any consumer harm because of Microsoft since their prices have not gone up greatly and on some products the price has actually gone down. I am saddened that nine states will continue to press their case even though I believe in the end that Microsoft will prevail.

Since the Court of Appeals so quickly turned around the decision of the trial judge, I believe there is little left to argue and that a settlement is the best way to go. Please approve it.

Sincerely,


Fred F. Steen, II
Mayor

PO Box 8165, Landis, NC 28088